

The Honorable Deborah Ross  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Bacon  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Ross, Congressman Joyce, Congresswoman Castor, and Congressman Bacon:

The undersigned 47 domestic organizations, international non-governmental organizations, and individuals that want to prevent and address the epidemic of abuse in sports write to **endorse the Safer Sports for Athletes Act of 2024**. We appreciate your leadership on behalf of athlete survivors of sexual abuse.

A 2021 study by World Players Association indicated that 13% of student athletes experience sexual violence through their participation in sports, yet this number is believed to be much higher. Athletes face extreme vulnerability to sexual abuse because of their complex and sometimes isolating schedules, the intimate nature of coaching and development of sporting skills, the increased physical care and scrutiny, the pressures and stressors of athletic competition, as well as concerns about career opportunities in a finite timeframe.

We support this bipartisan legislation, which is intended to create safer sports for athletes through key revisions that would improve the process for athlete survivors and revise training guidelines. Specifically, informed by athlete voices, the lived experience of athlete survivors of abuse in sport, and 150 listening sessions conducted by The Army of Survivors, the Safer Sports for Athletes Act will enhance and strengthen the investigative and appeals process survivors face when they report abuse to the U.S. Center for SafeSport. Reforms are needed to make the U.S. Center for Safe Sport a place for critical non-bias investigation, a source to connect survivors to support, and a leader in preventing abuse in sports. Although the U.S. Center for Safe Sport has taken some voluntary steps to improve its process, there remains an urgent need to improve this system through legislative action. This was highlighted by the findings released this spring by the Congressionally-authorized Commission on the State of U.S. Olympics and Paralympics in its 277 page report and subsequent hearings by the Senate Commerce Committee and House Energy and Commerce Committee.

We support these changes as a necessary step in advancing safe sports for all athletes, helping to center athlete survivors' voices, and changing the culture in sports. Thank you for your sponsorship of the Safer Sports for Athletes Act.

**National Organizations:**

Children's Trust Fund Alliance  
Family Focused Treatment Association

National Alliance to End Sexual Violence  
National Women's Law Center  
The Army of Survivors  
Women's Sports Foundation

**International Organizations**

Athlete Rights Australia  
Athletes Network for Safer Sports  
Equality League  
Kyniska Advocacy  
OutFront In Sport  
PLAYYA Nigeria Youth Development Initiative  
Women Win  
Young Players Protection in Africa - Mali

**Individuals - United States**

Athena Tran	CA
Mary Cain	CA
Christiaan Knapp	CO
Lilah Drafts-Johnson	DC
Cindy Miller Aron	IL
Emma Hart	IN
Lauren Nowosatka	MD
Larissa Boyce	MI
Melissa Hudecz	MI
Laura Henry	NY
Rachel Causey	NV
Ramón Ascencio	NV
Ben Wach	OH
Andrea Zenger	TX
Brittany Needham	TX
Christina Haynes Sanchez	TX
Elizabeth Haynes	TX
Emily Daniels	TX
Gwendolynn Murphy	TX
Matthew Requa	TX
Thu-Mai Nguyen	TX
Abigail Larson	UT
Angie Lund	UT
Jace Larson	UT
Katherine Touhey	VA
Julie Sommer	WA

**Individuals - International**

Marisa Markunas

Brazil

Patricia Angelica Oliveira de Souza

Brazil

Norris Ferguson

Trinidad and Tobago